

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) A vehicle seat including a seat part having a side and a backrest having a side, at least one of the seat part and the backrest comprising:

a usable surface having a first part on the backrest and a second part on the seat part, the first part being connected to the second part by a flexible connecting element;

an air supply opening;

an air duct extending between the air supply opening and the usable surface, the air duct having at least two air duct arms and a distributing section;

a ventilator in communication with the air duct for producing an air flow in the air duct; and

wherein the ventilator is coupled to the side of the [[the]] backrest, and

wherein the flexible connecting element makes up part of the air duct and is directly adjoined by the distributing section of the air duct.

17. (Currently Amended) The vehicle seat of claim 16[[,.]] wherein the ventilator is configured to direct the airflow from the air supply opening to the usable surface.

18. (Currently Amended) The vehicle seat of claim 16[[,.]] wherein the ventilator is configured to direct the airflow from the usable surface to the air supply opening.

19. (Currently Amended) The vehicle seat of claim 16[[,.]] wherein the backrest comprises a backrest structure and a backrest upholstery for covering the backrest structure and wherein the ventilator is coupled to the side of one of the backrest structure and the backrest upholstery.

20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently Amended) The vehicle seat of claim 16[[[,] wherein the at least one of the seat part and the backrest further comprises a foam cushion and wherein at least a portion of the air duct is formed in the foam cushion.

22. (Previously Presented) The vehicle seat of claim 21 further comprising an air permeable layer on the foam material and covering the at least a portion of the air duct in the foam cushion.

23. (Currently Amended) The vehicle seat of claim 21[[[,] wherein the ventilator is coupled to the air supply opening.

24. (Canceled)

25. (Currently Amended) The vehicle seat of claim [[24,]] 26 wherein the air duct comprises a plurality of arms so that the air duct is distributed over substantially all of the usable surface.

26. (Currently Amended) ~~The vehicle seat of claim 24,~~ A vehicle seat having a seat part and a backrest, at least one of the seat part and the backrest comprising:

a usable surface;

an air supply opening; and

an air duct configured to direct air between the air supply opening and the usable surface,

wherein the air duct has a first cross-sectional area at a first position and a second cross-sectional area at a second position, the first position being closer to the air supply opening than the second position and the second cross-sectional area being less than the first cross-sectional area, and

wherein the first cross-sectional area and the second cross-sectional area are rectangular and are each defined by a height and a width, and wherein the width of the first cross-sectional area is the same as the width of the second cross-sectional area and the height of the first cross-sectional area is greater than the height of the second cross-sectional area.

27. (Currently Amended) The vehicle seat of claim [[24]] 26 further comprising a foam material having a first side in which at least a portion of the air duct is formed and a second side opposite the first side.

28. (Currently Amended) The vehicle seat of claim 27[[,]] further comprising compensation elements coupled to the second side of the foam material, the compensation elements configured to deform so that the cross-sectional area of the at least a portion of the air duct is maintained when the vehicle seat is occupied.

29. (Currently Amended) The vehicle seat of claim [[24]] 26 further comprising a ventilator for producing an air flow in the air duct.

30. (Previously Presented) The vehicle seat of claim 29 further comprising an operating unit for controlling the operation of the ventilator.

31. (Currently Amended) The vehicle seat of claim 30[[,]] wherein the operating unit is configured to control the operation of the ventilator based on at least one of the temperature of the interior of the vehicle and the temperature of the vehicle seat.

32. (Currently Amended) The vehicle seat of claim 31[[,]] wherein the operating unit is configured to operate the ventilator at a first speed when at least one of the temperature of the interior of the vehicle and the temperature of the vehicle seat exceeds a predetermined temperature limit and at a second speed when at least one of the temperature of the interior of the vehicle and the temperature of the vehicle seat falls within a predetermined temperature range.

33. (Currently Amended) The vehicle seat of claim 32[[,]] wherein the second speed is less than the first speed.

34. (Currently Amended) The vehicle seat of claim 33[[,]] wherein the predetermined temperature range within which the ventilator operates at the second speed is less than the predetermined temperature limit over which the ventilator operates at the first speed.

35. (Currently Amended) The vehicle seat of claim 34[[,]] wherein the second speed is selected from a range of speeds.

36. (Currently Amended) The vehicle seat of claim 29[[,]] wherein the ventilator is coupled to a side of the at least one of the seat part and the backrest.

37-41. (Canceled)

42. (New) The vehicle seat of claim 16 wherein the ventilator is coupled to a lateral side of the backrest.

43. (New) The vehicle seat of claim 36 wherein the ventilator is coupled to a lateral side of the at least one of the seat part and the backrest.